

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A device for locking a rope in place, comprising:
  - a lock housing with a top, a bottom, and a rear;
  - 5 a guide housing positioned within said lock housing, said guide housing translatably connected to the lock housing such that the guide housing can only move in the vertical direction;
    - a first and a second shoe contained within the guide housing such that the rope passes between them;
    - 10 a first means for positioning the first shoe between the top and bottom of the guide housing, such that the first shoe can move vertically;
      - a second means for positioning the second shoe between the top and bottom of the guide housing such that the second shoe can translate vertically and horizontally;
      - a handle with a locked and unlocked position;
      - 15 a first and second cam pivotally mounted on the housing, the handle connected to the first cam, and the first and second cam operably connected to each other so that the rotations of the cams are equal, said cams operably connected to the second shoe such that moving the handle to the locked position causes the second shoe to translate towards the first shoe without rotation.
  - 20 2. The device of claim 1, further comprising an automatic closing means comprising:
    - a guide means that causes the second shoe to close more tightly against the first shoe when a load is placed on the rope after the lock has been manually closed.
    - 25
  - 3. The device of claim 2, wherein the automatic closing means remains engaged when the handle is moved to the open position.
  - 4. The device of claim 3, wherein the automatic closing means remains engaged
    - 30 until the load on the rope is removed.
  - 5. A device for locking a rope in place, comprising

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a lock housing;

a first and a second shoe contained within said housing such that the rope passes between the shoes;

means for positioning the first shoe between the top and bottom of the housing, such that the first shoe can translate towards the top or bottom of the housing;

means for positioning the second shoe between the top and bottom of the housing such that the second shoe can translate towards the top or bottom of the housing, and towards or away from the first shoe;

a handle with a locked and unlocked position;

means for closing the second shoe in response to moving the handle to the locked position such that the second shoe translates towards the first shoe without rotation.

6. The device of claim 5, further comprising a means for automatically holding the second shoe in the closed position in response to placing a load on the rope while the second shoe is in the closed position.

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